

Toronto, 26th FEBRUARY, 1844.

Sir :

We have the honor to announce to you the formation, in this City, of an Association for the purpose of securing to the inhabitants of this Province practical responsible Government, a Copy of the Constitution of which Association is herewith inclosed. The objects of this Association are in that Constitution stated with so much clearness, and the necessity for its formation so abundantly attested by the present political crisis in this Country, as to require but few additional observations upon the part of the Committee of Correspondence.

Great industry has been employed, since the resignation of the late Ministry, in misrepresenting the principles upon which the administration of public affairs is to be conducted in accordance with the Resolutions of 1841, thereby involving in mystery both the doctrine and working of responsible government. In expressing the views of the "Reform Association of Canada" upon this great principle of British Liberty, the committee cannot find better terms, than the words of one of the concluding paragraphs of the Report of the late Lord Durham, a statesman who devoted more time and pains to the consideration of the government of this Province than any other who has written upon it.— "The responsibility to the United Legislature of all officers of the government, except the Governor and his Secretary, should be secured by every means known to the British Constitution. The Governor as the Representative of the Crown, should be instructed that he must carry on his government by Heads of Departments in whom the United Legislature shall repose confidence, and that he must look for no support from home in any contest with the Legislature except on points involving "strictly Imperial interests."

Many attacks have been both covertly and openly made upon the applicability of this great principle to a Colony, and its enemies have insidiously pretended to see in its practice, nothing short of virtual independence of the Mother Country. The second resolution of the Reform Association sufficiently explains the views of its members upon this head, expressing as it does their solemn conviction that the love of British Liberty, and as a natural consequent, the enjoyment of British Liberty is the best and surest guarantee for the greatness and integrity of the British Empire.

It will readily be admitted by all to whom the prosperity of the Province, and the rights of its inhabitants, as subjects of the British Crown, are matters of interest, that there never was a moment in which they were more imperatively called upon for firmness and union in the constitutional defence of both the one and the other. The very unscrupulous means which have been taken to prejudice the public mind both here and in England,—the language of many of the leading English journals,—the insidious manner in which the mention of the Royal Prerogative has been paraded in questions in no way connected with it—the manner in which the Government of this Country has for several months been conducted without a Ministry or responsible Heads of Departments—and the extraordinary use which has been made of the name of the Queen's Representative, so as to place him before the Public in the light of the mere leader of a party, while he is sedulously kept in ignorance of the true state of public feeling, are quite sufficient pledges that no possible means or exertions will be spared by the advisers of His Excellency in order to obtain a triumph in the present contest.

To meet so formidable an array with success, the questions really at issue must be distinctly and dispassionately explained to the people; the leading members of the Reform party throughout the entire Province must be brought into communication with each other, and with one common centre; and a unity of purpose and action by such means established among all those, who value their best rights as Britons, and the best interests of that portion of the British Empire which they inhabit.

These are the objects of the Reform Association of Canada, and in furtherance of these objects the committee has thus addressed you, earnestly claiming your assistance. They will be glad if you will communicate with the undersigned, and inform them of those in your neighbourhood, whose assistance would be valuable in the attainment of these objects, in order that a copy of this communication may without loss of time be forwarded to them.

By order of the Committee of Correspondence.

Your most obedient servants,

JOS. CURRAN MORRISON. }
SKEFFINGTON CONNOR. } CORRESPONDING
SECRETARIES.

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